

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 DOTE-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /179 W

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R 011611Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7349

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 1584

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: ECON, IV

SUBJ: MINISTERIAL MEETING ON PRICES

1. GOIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MET FEBRUARY 28 TO DISCUSS PRICE RISES IN IVORY COAST. MINISTERS ISSUED AMBIGUOUS DECLARATION REGARDING FOLLOWING THREE PROBLEMS: 1) SPECULATION IN RICE AS RESULT OF THE IVORIAN GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY WHICH ALLOWED THE PRICE OF RICE TO BE LOWER IN IVORY COAST THAN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES; 2) CLANDESTINE TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS WHICH ALLOWED AS MANY AS 500 UNREGISTERED VEHICLES TO TRANSPORT PEOPLE ILLEGALLY THROUGHOUT THE IVORY COAST AND TAKE AWAY CUSTOMERS FROM THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM; AND 3) AS A RESULT OF A DECLINE IN NUMBER OF USERS COMBINED WITH THE PROBLEM OF INCREASED PETROLEUM COSTS, BUS FARES WILL BE RAISED BY SOTRA, THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY.

2. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT NO SPECIFIC ACTIONS WERE ANNOUNCED TO SOLVE PROBLEMS. MINISTERS REQUESTED IVORIANS TO KEEP RICE IN THE COUNTRY AND TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF RICE TO MEET THEIR NEEDS. GOIC INDICATED IT WOULD MAKE NEW EFFORT TO CRACK DOWN ON ILLEGAL TRANSPORTERS, BUT MADE NO MENTION OF SPECIFIC BUS UNCLASSIFIED

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FARE INCREASES OR NEW PRICES FOR RICE.

ROOT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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